

Zavada Ya. Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the context of regional security

The article examines the relations between the two leading states of the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia in the context of regional security. The geopolitical contradictions between the two countries are highlighted, especially the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen. During the study was revealed that the confrontation between countries has deep historical, cultural, ideological, economic, political reasons.

Relations between Tehran and Riyadh as two key players and two regional powers are of great importance. Special place of the two countries has caused relations between them to be very important in the formation of regional order in the Persian Gulf, and the Middle East. Different behavior patterns in their relationship have taken place from the beginning of the relationship till now. After domestic, regional and international developments in 1999, Tehran and Riyadh went from divergence to the detente, coexistence and cooperation during the presidency of Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami. However, since 2005 these two great neighboring countries again entered the competition, tensions and divergences.

According to results was found out that identical, geopolitical, and structural factors were the determinant factors in creating relations and conflicts between the two countries. Identity of Iran's political system is referred to Iranian-Islamic identity, while Saudi Arabia has Arabic-Islamic identity. Their geopolitical distinctions are related to Shiite and Sunni disciplines, and in terms of structure, rapprochement with U.S. and distribution of power in the Persian Gulf region are the most important indicators. These factors formed a "competitive conflict" behavior pattern among them.

It should also be noted that Iran's nuclear program has a major impact on the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Saudi Arabia is a ferocious opponent of Iran's nuclear deal. Riyadh supports US withdrawal from the nuclear deal. Because, Saudi Arabia has aim to increase and strengthen its influence in the region.

So, today there are no prospects for improvement of relations between the countries.

Keywords: Persian Gulf, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iran's nuclear program, nuclear weapons, regional security.